(d) whether Government would take any permanent measures to face drought and famine like situation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) As per information available from the Government of Orissa, Kharif crop in 21 lakh ha. was affected by the super-cyclone and 1.53 lakh ha. cropped area was reportedly affected by floods of July-August, 1999. 9.03 lakh cropped area in Kharif has been reportedly affected by current year's drought.

(b) No details are maintained.

(c) According to the State Government, 22.63 lakh ha. and 10.95 lakh ha. of area under Kharif and Rabi cultivation have irrigation potential.

(d) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to take necessary measures. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government. A number of schemes are being implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments which have components of disaster mitigation.

Uniform policy for declaring national calamity

127. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government would not declare Orissa supercyclone as national calamity which Prime Minister has already declared Gujarat earthquake as national calamity; and

(b) whether Government would consider to bring a legislation to frame a uniform policy for declaring national calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) There is no provision legal or executive for declaring any natural calamity as a national calamity. In the recent earthquake in Gujarat and earlier in the case of super-cyclone in Orissa, the Central and the State Governments have undertaken emergency operations for rescue and

relief for providing all assistance to the affected people.

(b) The Government has no such proposal at present. However, one of the Terms of Reference of the National Committee on Disaster Management, set up recently under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, is to look into the parameters that should define a "National Calamity".

Private sector participation in storage of foodgrains

128. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to encourage private sector participation in storage of foodgrains under its National Storage Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has notified on July 4, 2000 a national policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains in order to reduce storage and transit losses and to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign. A copy of the Resolution dated July 4, 2000 on the policy is enclosed as statement (*See* below).